

1 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS FOR EXPANSION  
2 OF THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

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Taken at the  
9 Jackson Marriott Downtown,  
200 East Amite Street,  
10 Jackson, Mississippi,  
on Tuesday, October 18, 2005,  
11 beginning at approximately 7:00 p.m.

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1 MR. JACK MOODY: My name is Jack  
2 Moody. I'm from the Mississippi Development  
3 Authority. And I certainly appreciate the DOE  
4 giving us the opportunity to have some input into  
5 the process tonight.  
6 I couldn't help but think as you  
7 reviewed the history of the SPR development -- and  
8 I took the liberty of reading on your website. I  
9 saw that many presidents cogitated over this good

10 idea for a long time, and it was studied before it  
11 was implemented.

12         And that has a lot in common with  
13 Richton Dome. It, too, has been studied for a  
14 long time and cogitated over, and hopefully we  
15 might see a successful operation here.

16         Understanding a little bit of the  
17 necessities that the DOE finds when evaluating a  
18 project in different locations of the country, we  
19 can appreciate that environmentally -- I am sure  
20 that if your operation comes to Mississippi, you  
21 will also receive the highest reward for  
22 environmental stewardship in our state. Your  
23 track record is impressive, and no doubt you will  
24 be able to operate here.

25         If you can operate that well in the

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1 conditions that y'all place yourself in in the  
2 wetlands of the coastal regions, then I'm sure  
3 that the upland locations that we have here in  
4 Mississippi to offer should be another example of  
5 your pristine stewardship.

6         Having looked at your diagram in the  
7 back, and knowing that your distribution  
8 capabilities of a million barrels a day could be  
9 met by the plants that y'all have developed,  
10 certainly would meet one of those aspects, one of  
11 your important aspects.

12         The risk of the project, we would  
13 look at it we're not prejudiced, of course. But  
14 looking at the present distribution of the SPR, we  
15 would certainly look toward Richton as a stable  
16 site if we ever had -- may we never have another  
17 hurricane season as we have had, but nevertheless  
18 an upland -- a more upland component situated in a  
19 geologically stable platform we hope would have  
20 certain attributes and certain values that could  
21 be put into the equation.

22         And if we understand correctly, it  
23 would also -- Mississippi would help in maybe the  
24 symmetry of distribution of the SPR reserves and  
25 perhaps would be coming toward the eastern side

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1 rather than slanted closely to the Texas-Louisiana

2 border.  
3 And of course, there is a cost  
4 component to this. And we've looked at the cost,  
5 and we have quite a bit of pipeline, but when that  
6 is said and done, we have pipeline mainly in  
7 upland situations. We've created an  
8 infrastructure that: You build it, they'll come.  
9 You're placing new capabilities within our state.  
10 At the end of the day, the distribution meets your  
11 needs.  
12 You also are connected to one of the  
13 largest refineries in the United States. And  
14 again, refineries seem to be geographically  
15 concentrated in the area of the SPR.  
16 And we hope that beyond straight  
17 dollar outlay for developing an infrastructure  
18 that could reach out to the cap line, as well as  
19 the large Chevron refinery, that this would play  
20 well in the evaluation.  
21 And I think as the Governor has asked  
22 and all that Mississippi is asking, that we get a  
23 fair shot, give due considerations given to all  
24 the variables and make your best decision for  
25 what's good for America.

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1 MS. POLLY QUICK: Thank you,  
2 Mr. Moody.  
3 I have another speaker, Chad Cornett,  
4 if you'll also let us know what your organization  
5 is.  
6 MR. CHAD CORNETT: Good evening. I'm  
7 Chad Cornett. I'm with the Area Development  
8 Partnership, the acting agent for the local Board  
9 of Supervisors of Perry County in which the  
10 Richton site resides. And on behalf of the Board  
11 of Supervisors and the greater Hattiesburg area,  
12 we welcome you and we thank you for the  
13 opportunity to give our insight.  
14 As a part of that, we would like to  
15 offer our political support with the resolution  
16 recommendations and the further submission of  
17 written reports of the 28th deadline. We thank  
18 you for the opportunity.  
19 And we'd like to echo the State's  
20 initiatives of your positive ripple effects that

21 this plan may provide in the site selection and  
22 appreciate your environmental soundness. And  
23 again, we'll echo those in written reports. Thank  
24 you.

25 MS. POLLY QUICK: Thank you,

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1 Mr. Cornett.

2 And does anyone else have some  
3 comments you would like to make as we scope this  
4 Environmental Impact Study? Anything that you  
5 want the team to be sure to consider? Come up and  
6 make your oral suggestions now or drop them in  
7 writing back there or pick up the information and  
8 send them before the 28th. We'd like to capture  
9 it if it is a suggestion.

10 MR. JULIUS RIDGWAY: My name is  
11 Julius Ridgway. I live in Jackson. My family has  
12 owned interest in this area for many decades and  
13 have followed the activities and the research on  
14 this dome, and we have cooperated with the DOE in  
15 their efforts to try to acquire the site back in  
16 1991 and '92.

17 And I'd just like to indicate that we  
18 own 75 percent of the salt and storage rights  
19 under this site, and we want to indicate our  
20 cooperation and support of your project and  
21 indicate support and willingness to work with the  
22 service owner in this project. Thank you.

23 MS. POLLY QUICK: Thank you, sir.

24 Anybody else?

25 MAYOR JIMMY WHITE: I'm Jimmy White.

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1 I'm the mayor of the town of Richton. Although  
2 the salt dome is not inside the city limits, it is  
3 in close proximity to the city limits, within a  
4 mile. Obviously we are concerned any time that  
5 anything comes up pertaining to the salt dome.

6 Initially we feel that this is a very  
7 laudable process to take and a laudable  
8 undertaking for us, and it would be of extreme  
9 value for our community and our town in offering  
10 jobs that are much needed, as well as take care of  
11 a national problem that we have with oil storage.  
12 So we do support it, at least at this time from

13 what we know. Thank you.  
14 MS. POLLY QUICK: Thank you,  
15 Mr. Mayor.  
16 Anyone else?  
17 I think what I'll do, then, is close  
18 the formal comment period part of this meeting,  
19 and we'll go off the record. Thanks very much for  
20 coming out. Please make sure that you get the  
21 information at the back so that if you do have  
22 comments to make in the next week and a half,  
23 please take advantage of it.  
24 We're looking forward to putting  
25 together a study that really looks at all the

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1 potential impacts so that the decision makers can  
2 take those into account when they make their  
3 decision about where the expansion will be.  
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